DC
3
of 3
SUPERMAN
SMASHES THE KLAN
UH
GURIHIRU
GENE LUEN YANG • GURIHIRU

SUPERMAN SMASHES THE KLAN

PART THREE

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SUPERMAN SMASHES THE KLAN PART THREE

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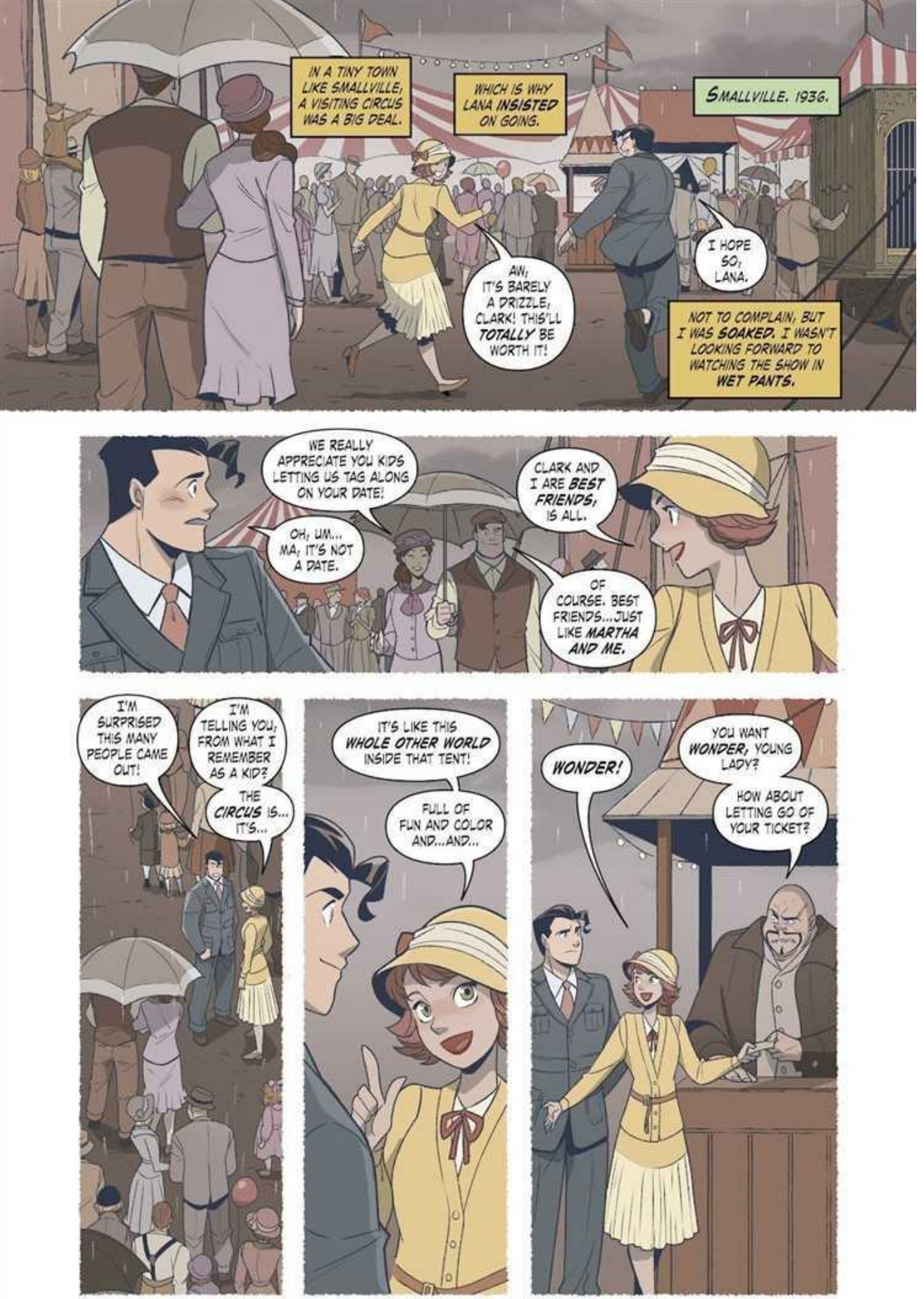

IN A TINY TOWN LIKE SMALLVILLE, A VISITING CIRCUS WAS A BIG DEAL.
WHICH IS WHY LANA INSISTED ON GOING.
SMALLVILLE. 1936.
AW, IT'S BARELY A DRIZZLE, CLARK! THIS'LL TOTALLY BE WORTH IT!
I HOPE SO, LANA.
NOT TO COMPLAIN, BUT I WAS SOAKED. I WASN'T LOOKING FORWARD TO WATCHING THE SHOW IN WET PANTS.
WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOU KIDS LETTING US TAG ALONG ON YOUR DATE!
OH, UM... MA, IT'S NOT A DATE.
CLARK AND I ARE BEST FRIENDS, IS ALL.
OF COURSE. BEST FRIENDS... JUST LIKE MARTHA AND ME.
I'M SURPRISED THIS MANY PEOPLE CAME OUT!
I'M TELLING YOU, FROM WHAT I REMEMBER AS A KID? THE CIRCUS IS... IT'S...
IT'S LIKE THIS WHOLE OTHER WORLD INSIDE THAT TENT!
FULL OF FUN AND COLOR AND... AND...
WONDER!
YOU WANT WONDER, YOUNG LADY?
HOW ABOUT LETTING GO OF YOUR TICKET?

DESPITE THE GRUMPY GUY AT THE ENTRANCE, LANA WAS RIGHT.
IT WAS A WHOLE OTHER WORLD INSIDE.
THE ACROBATS, JUGGLERS, AND ANIMALS WEREN'T LIKE ANYTHING I'D EVER SEEN.
I FORGOT ALL ABOUT MY PANTS BEING SOAKED.
THE MOST INTRIGUING PERFORMER, THOUGH?
LADIEEES AND GENTLEMENNN! PLEASE PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER AND WELCOME TO THE CENTER RING A LIVING LEGEND!
A HERO OF MYTH!
THE STRONGEST STRONGMAN TO EVER WALK THE EARTH! I PRESENT TO YOU—

THE MIGHTY SAMSON!
CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!
HEY! IT'S THE GUY WHO TOOK OUR TICKETS!
WHAT? NO! THAT GUY WAS BALD! THIS GUY'S GOT LONGER HAIR THAN MINE!
LANA, HE'S CLEARLY WEARING A WIG!
WELL... IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
LOOK AT THE WAY HE CARRIES HIMSELF AND THAT COSTUME!
YOU LIKE HIS COSTUME?! HE'S WEARING HIS UNDERWEAR ON THE OUTSIDE!
YEAH, BUT HE MAKES IT WORK SOMEHOW.
HUP— HUP—
HUZZAH!
WOOHOO
GASP!
THAT SMILE! DEFINITELY NOT THE SAME GUY!
CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!
BUT HE DEFINITELY WAS.

OUTSIDE, THE RAIN HAD GROWN INTO A LIGHTNING STORM.
RUMBLE RUMBLE
KRACK!
¿GASP?
¿IS THE TENT—?
FSSSS
FWOOSH!
BVOOOR·R·R!
AIYEEE!
RUN!

MOVE IT, FOLKS!
BVOOORRR!
LET HIM GO, LANA! WHEN HE GETS LIKE THAT, THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM!
BUT, CLARK—!
LANA, CAN YOU MAKE SURE MY PARENTS ARE SAFE?
I GOTTA GO HELP!
OY GEVALT!
RUN, GIRL! RUN!
GRRR
YEOW!
ROARRR!
MMMRPH!

ROARR!
YOU ALL RIGHT, MR. SAMSON?!
?!

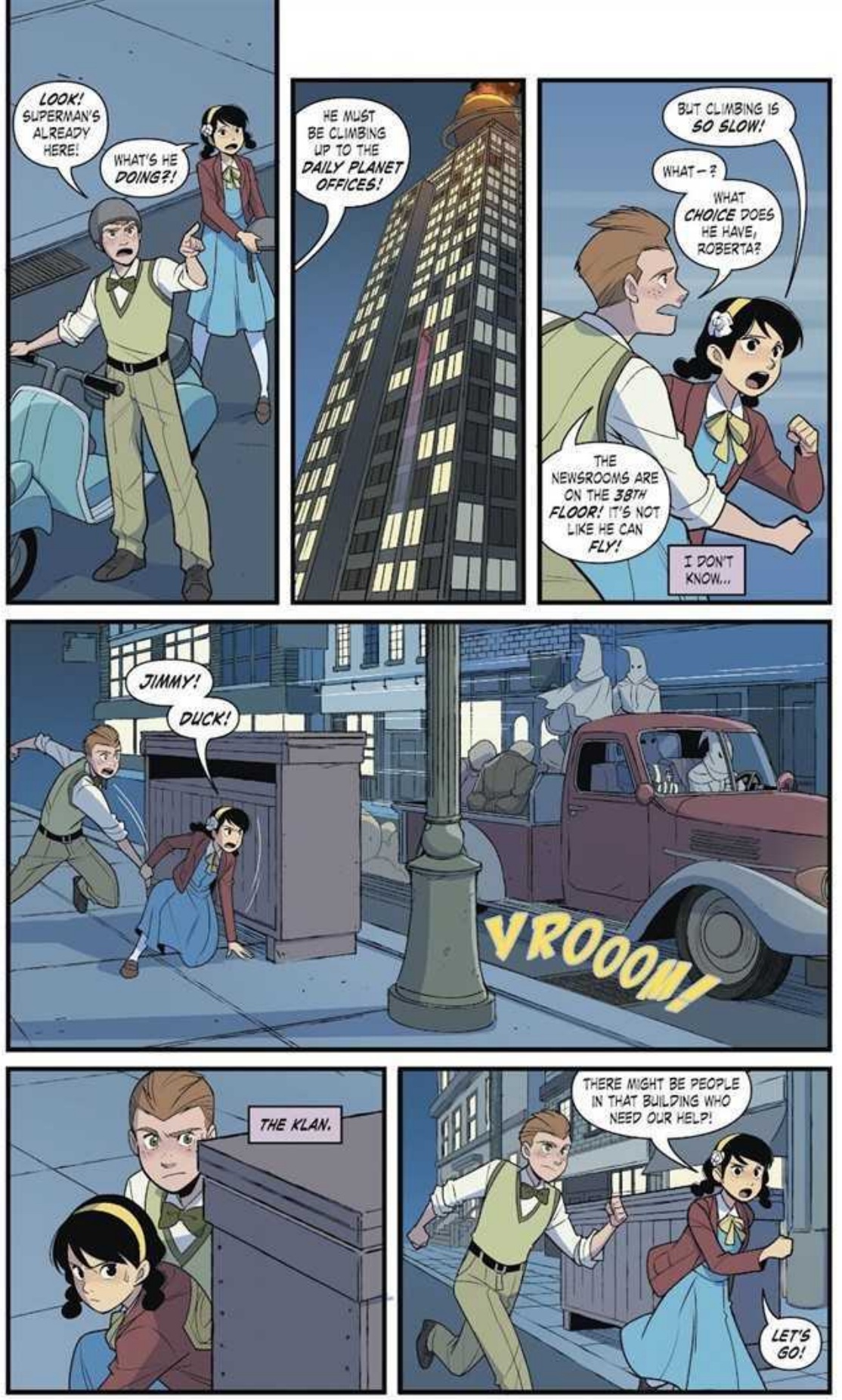
LATER.
THANKS FOR THE POP.
A BOTTLE OF POP FOR SAVING MY LIFE?
DEAL OF THE CENTURY, KID!
Y'KNOW; THEY CALL ME THE WORLD'S STRONGEST STRONGMAN, BUT YOU—
Glink.
I'VE NEVER MET ANYBODY LIKE YOU.
YOU GOT A REAL FUTURE IN THE CIRCUS, KID! EVER PERFORMED IN FRONT OF PEOPLE?
NO.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID THAT IF PEOPLE SAW WHAT I COULD DO... I'D SCARE THEM.
HA! I HAD THE SAME PROBLEM! KNOW HOW I SOLVED IT?
A COSTUME.
THE MORE COLORFUL, THE BETTER!

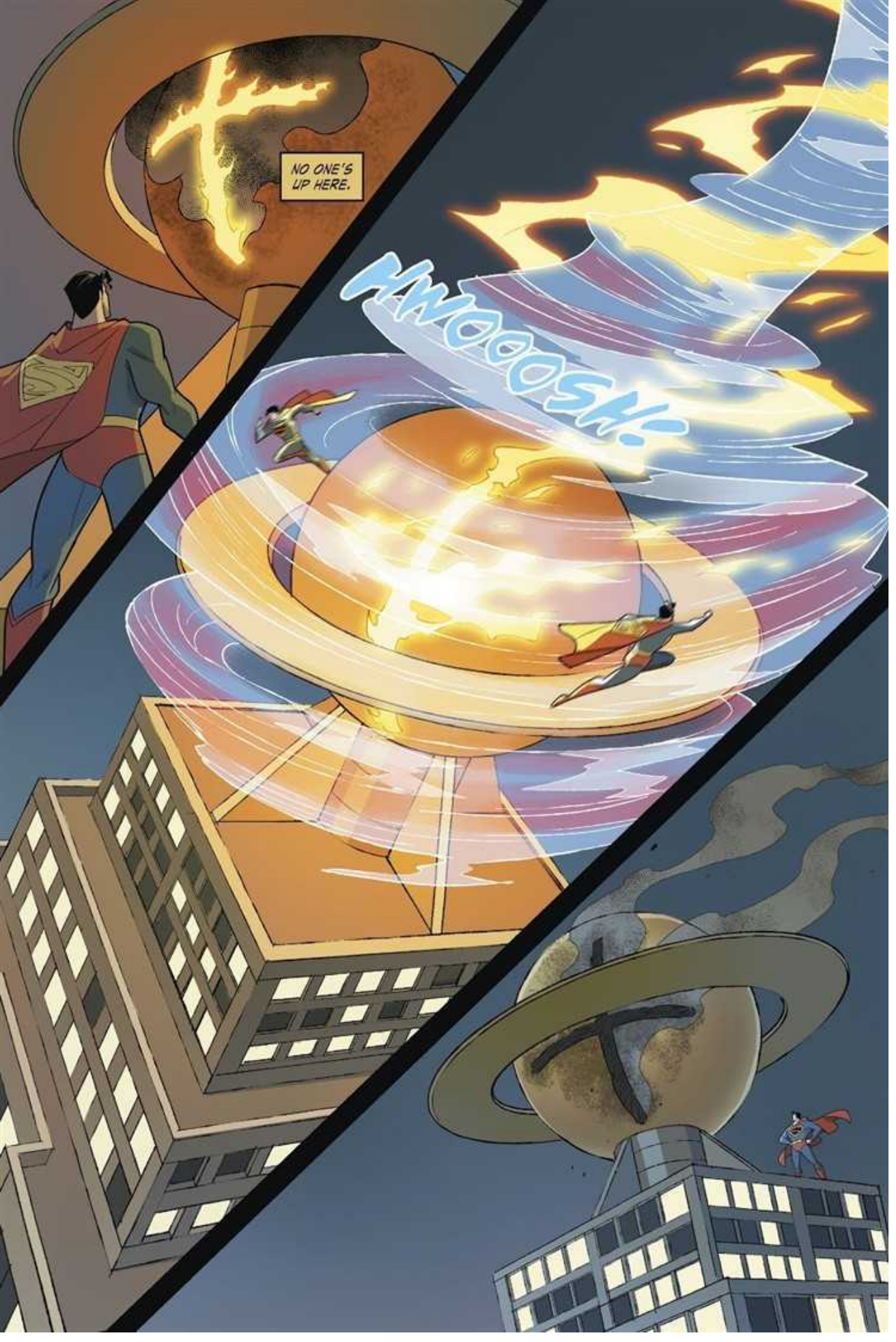
BY THE NEXT MORNING, MA HAD SEWN ME ONE.
WHAT IS THIS?!
YOUR FATHER AND I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU DID YESTERDAY, SON.
IT'S WHAT YOU WERE MEANT TO DO.
BUT THIS SYMBOL YOU PUT ON THE CHEST... IT'S FROM THAT OLD PHONOGRAPH MACHINE...
THE ALIEN PHONOGRAPH MACHINE. WITH THE ALIEN RECORDING OF THE ALIEN VOICES.
I ASKED YOUR MOTHER NOT TO SEW IT ON, BUT SHE INSISTED.
IT FELT RIGHT. OTHERWISE, THE SHIRT WOULD LOOK TOO PLAIN.
BUT IT'S...
AN ALIEN SYMBOL.

IT LOOKS LIKE AN S IN A FUNNY DIAMOND SHAPE, CLARK. LET THEM THINK IT'S AN S.

AND SO I BECAME A STRONGMAN, JUST LIKE THE ONES THEY HAVE AT THE CIRCUS, ONLY I HELP PEOPLE.
I WAS MAYBE EVEN THE WORLD'S STRONGEST STRONGMAN.

BUT STILL A HUMAN STRONGMAN.
TO EVERYONE ELSE, AT LEAST.
METROPOLIS. 1946.
GREAT SCOTT!
NFF!


LOOK! SUPERMAN'S ALREADY HERE!
WHAT'S HE DOING?!
HE MUST BE CLIMBING UP TO THE DAILY PLANET OFFICES!
BUT CLIMBING IS SO SLOW!
WHAT—?
WHAT CHOICE DOES HE HAVE, ROBERTA?
THE NEWSROOMS ARE ON THE 38TH FLOOR! IT'S NOT LIKE HE CAN FLY!
I DON'T KNOW...
JIMMY!
DUCK!
VROOOM!
THE KLAN.
THERE MIGHT BE PEOPLE IN THAT BUILDING WHO NEED OUR HELP!
LET'S GO!


NO ONE'S UP HERE.
HWOOOSH!

SUPERMAN!
IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?!
IT WAS HORRIBLE!
THOSE HOODED THUGS BURST IN AND TIED US UP!
WE THOUGHT WE'D BE STUCK HERE ALL NIGHT—
—UNTIL JIMMY AND HIS FRIEND CAME TO OUR RESCUE!
JIMMY! ROBERTA! WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?!
HELPING YOU STOP THOSE BIGOTS!
THEY TOOK HOSTAGES WITH 'EM, SUPERMAN!
THEY GOT PERRY, LOIS, AND INSPECTOR HENDERSON!
ANY IDEA WHERE THEY'RE HEADED?
NO, I'M SORRY.
ACTUALLY, SUPERMAN, COME LOOK AT THIS!
THAT LIPSTICK HAS TO BE MS. LANE'S, RIGHT? I THINK SHE LEFT US A MESSAGE!
I CAN BARELY MAKE IT OUT! I'M IMPRESSED YOU EVEN FOUND THIS, ROBERTA!
I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WERE STUCK IN LOIS LANE'S SITUATION?
I'D LEAVE BEHIND A CLUE OF SOME SORT.

W.J...
CALL IT A HUNCH, BUT THOSE ARE THE INITIALS OF MY DAD'S CO-WORKER WILLIAM JENNINGS.
WHEN HE VISITED MY FAMILY, HE CAME OFF LIKE A REAL CREEP.
A KLANNISH SORT OF CREEP?
WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.
IT'S WORTH CHECKING OUT.
JIMMY, ALL RIGHT IF I BORROW THE OFFICE PHONE BOOK? I NEED TO LOOK UP JENNINGS'S ADDRESS!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, SUPERMAN!
HWOOOSH!

THE UNITY HOUSE.
HOLY–!
WHERE'S ROBERTA?!

EXCUSE ME, MR. FIREMAN? HAVE YOU SEEN MY SISTER? CHINESE GIRL IN A RED SUPERMAN JACKET?
IS SHE FRIENDS WITH THAT JIMMY OLSEN KID FROM THE DAILY PLANET?
YEAH, THAT'S HER!

DON'T WORRY, YOUNG MAN. SHE WASN'T HURT. THANKS TO SUPERMAN, NOBODY WAS. I THINK JIMMY TOOK HER HOME.
YOU BOYS LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH THE WRINGER. WHY DON'T YOU HEAD HOME YOURSELVES?

HEY, TOMMY...?
I'VE BEEN THINKING... WHAT HAPPENED TO THE UNITY HOUSE WAS ABSOLUTELY WRONG, OF COURSE.
BUT... IS IT REALLY ALL THAT BAD TO WANT TO LIVE AROUND ONLY PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE YOU?

WAIT. WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, CHUCK?
I... I DON'T KNOW! I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL!

A BROKEN ARM'S NOT ENOUGH?! YOU WANT ME TO QUIT THE TEAM?!
NO, NO! THAT'S NOT—!
YOU WANT MY FAMILY TO MOVE BACK TO CHINATOWN, IS THAT IT?!
I...I...!
SPIT IT OUT!
I WANT TO KNOW THAT MY FAMILY'S NOT EVIL!
...
BACK IN CHINATOWN, THE ONLY BASEBALL I EVER GOT TO PLAY WAS PICKUP.
THE UNITY HOUSE IS THE FIRST TEAM I'VE BEEN ON WHERE ALL THE PLAYERS WEAR MATCHING CAPS AND JERSEYS! A REAL TEAM, Y'KNOW?
SURE, I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO PLAY AN ACTUAL GAME WITH YOU GUYS. AND NOW THAT I'M HURT, IT'LL BE A GOOD LONG WHILE BEFORE I DO.
BUT THAT'S WHY I TAUGHT YOU THAT FASTBALL, RIGHT? I STILL WANT US TO WIN!
I THOUGHT WE WERE ON THE SAME TEAM, CHUCK. ARE YOU SAYING WE'RE NOT?
TOMMY... I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING.
WHATEVER.
I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.

ELSEWHERE IN METROPOLIS.
YOU CLOWNS MUST'VE DRESSED UP IN YOUR NIGHT-GOWNS FOR A REASON! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
WE'RE GOING TO TEACH THE DAILY PLANET A LESSON ABOUT INTERFERING WITH KLAN BUSINESS!
BECAUSE OF RATS LIKE YOU, GOOD, HONEST, ONE HUNDRED PERCENT AMERICANS HAVE TO WEAR HOODS OVER OUR FACES JUST TO SAY WHAT WE REALLY BELIEVE!
LISTEN. I'M THE ONE YOU REALLY HATE, AREN'T I?
SO HOW ABOUT YOU LET MR. WHITE AND MS. LANE GO?
INSPECTOR HENDERSON ISN'T A HERO BECAUSE OF HIS BADGE, YOU IMBECILE!
YOU'RE NOT WEARING YOUR BADGE ANYMORE, BOY! NO NEED TO PLAY HERO!
LET THEM GO AND YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH ME!
THE LOYAL KNIGHT WHO GIFTED ME THIS BLADE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT ITS STORIED PAST!
SHING!
OH, WE'RE GOING TO DO WHAT WE WANT WITH YOU REGARDLESS!
IT'S BEEN USED IN THE RITUALS OF THE KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS FOR GENERATIONS!

HUH. YOU'D THINK AN OBJECT WITH SUCH A 'STORIED PAST' WOULD COST MORE THAN $2.79.
$2.79
WHA—?!
HA!
HA HA!
SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
YOU QUIT YOUR LAUGHING, BOY!
AS SOON AS YOU FELLAS QUIT ACTING LAUGHABLE, I'LL QUIT LAUGHING.
THAT'S IT!
I'M GONNA CUT THE LAUGHTER RIGHT OUT OF YOU!

SMASH!
SUPERMAN!

IF YOU'RE SMART, YOU'LL SURRENDER IMMEDIATELY!
NEVER!
MY SWORD!
WELL, YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR.
YAAA-
YEOWCH!
WAP!
Y-Y-YOU'RE NOT GONNA PUNCH ME BACK, ARE YOU...?
PLEEEASE DON'T PUNCH ME BACK!
I WON'T PUNCH YOU.
IF I DID, I'D PROBABLY KILL YOU.

flick.
KRASH!
!
KLINK!
KLINK!
PERRY! INSPECTOR! HOLD STILL SO I CAN CUT YOU OUT OF THAT ROPE!
KNIGHTS, IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN HANDLE HIM!
DOUBT IT.

TAKE HIM DOWN!
WHOA!
WHIRL!
YIKES!
GAH!
KRASH!
HELP! I'M ON FIRE! HELP MEEE!
HANG ON!
FWOOOSH!

I'M BURNINGGG!
PAT!
PAT!
STOP MOVING AROUND SO MUCH!
WE GOTTA PUT THIS FIRE OUT!
USE THIS!
HUH...?
GET OFFA ME! DON'T TOUCH ME!
FUNNY WAY OF SHOWING GRATITUDE, MISTER!
STOMP!
STOMP!
YOU EXPECT ME TO BE GRATEFUL FOR GETTING CONTAMINATED BY YOU?!
YOU OUGHTTA BE PUNISHED!
YOU NO-GOOD, FILTHY—
DROP THAT THING BEFORE YOU PUT SOMEBODY'S EYE OUT!

SMACK!
I SAID DROP IT!

INSPECTOR, I FOUND THIS ON THE GROUND. IT GOT PRETTY BANGED UP.

SIGH. I WORKED SO HARD FOR THIS.
THE DEPARTMENT WILL REPLACE IT FOR YOU, I'M SURE.
YEAH, BUT THAT COULD TAKE WEEKS.

IT'S JUST A BADGE, INSPECTOR. IT'S NOT WHAT MAKES YOU A POLICE OFFICER!
UNFORTUNATELY, NOT EVERYONE IN METROPOLIS SEES IT THAT WAY, MR. WHITE.

ROBERTA, JIMMY, DON'T GET ME WRONG. I'M NOT CONDONING YOU TWO PUTTING YOURSELVES IN DANGER...
BUT THANK YOU.
I TOLD YOU WE'D HELP YOU STOP THOSE BIGOTS, SUPERMAN!
YEAH...
MS. LANE, INSPECTOR HENDERSON, AND MR. WHITE ARE STILL STANDING.
STILL DOING THEIR JOBS.
EVEN AFTER EVERYTHING.
THANK GOODNESS THEY WEREN'T HURT BY THE KLAN.
BUT THEY COULD HAVE BEEN.
YOU! IN THE PURPLE!
ARE YOU THE ONE IN CHARGE? THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS HATE?
I'M THE GRAND SCORPION OF THE KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ASKING!

I'VE HALF A MIND TO—
KILL ME AND I PROMISE YOU, A HUNDRED MEN EXACTLY LIKE ME WILL RISE UP TO TAKE MY PLACE!
TO WHAT, SUPERMAN? PUNCH ME? KILL ME? GO AHEAD!
THEN I'LL BRING A HUNDRED OF THEM TO JUSTICE!
YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS ISN'T JUST A GROUP OF MEN. WE ARE A CONVICTION—
THE CONVICTION THAT A STRONG AMERICA IS A PURE AMERICA!
AND EVEN YOU CAN'T SMASH THAT WITH YOUR FISTS!
WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, YOU CANNOT UNITE A NATION OF PEOPLE WHO SHARE NEITHER BLOOD NOR HISTORY!
AND AS MUCH AS YOU WANT TO DENY IT, SUPERMAN, YOU ARE ONE OF US!
I'M NOT ONE OF YOU! I'M NOTHING LIKE YOU!
TELL ME, HOW DID YOU BECOME WHAT YOU ARE? WAS IT MYSTIC TRAINING, LIKE THE RUMORS SAY? A MEGAVITAMIN SERUM?
THE TRUTH IS, WHATEVER YOU DID WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED HAD YOU BEEN OF INFERIOR BLOOD!
THAT'S WHY MY NEPHEW ADMIRES YOU SO MUCH, ISN'T IT? THAT'S WHY THE WHOLE COUNTRY ADMIRES YOU!
YOU'RE LIVING PROOF OF JUST HOW SUPERIOR A WHITE MAN CAN BE!
GET IN THE TRUCK.
SHOVE!

HWOOOSH!

DON'T WORRY, GRAND SCORPION. I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME!
ONE RACE! ONE COLOR! ONE RELIGION!
MY GOOD AND LOYAL KNIGHT!

THANK YOU FOR THE RIDE, SUPERMAN.
YOU'RE NOT FEELING SICK?
I'M OKAY. I APPRECIATE YOU SOFTENING THE LANDING OF YOUR LEAP.
UM... SUPERMAN?
THIS MIGHT BE COMPLETELY OUT OF TURN, BUT...
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
OF COURSE.
WHEN YOU DO THAT... WHEN YOU SOFTEN YOUR LANDING BY ACTUALLY DEFYING GRAVITY... IS IT STILL CALLED LEAPING? ISN'T IT MORE LIKE...
FLYING?
I-I-
I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT, ROBERTA!
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT EVEN DOING IT CONSCIOUSLY... AND I DEFINITELY WOULDN'T HAVE NOTICED IF I DIDN'T HAVE SUCH A GURGLY STOMACH.
WH-WHAT—?!
BUT YOU'RE... LIMITING YOURSELF!
I COULD FEEL IT!
I'VE THOUGHT AND THOUGHT ABOUT WHY.
I HAVE A THEORY.
...
CAN I SAY IT?
GO ON.
YOU WANT TO FIT IN BETTER.

YOU WANT EVERYBODY TO BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE JUST A BETTER VERSION OF A NORMAL HUMAN.
HUMANS RUN. YOU JUST RUN FASTER. HUMANS JUMP. YOU JUST JUMP HIGHER. HUMANS LIFT STUFF. YOU JUST LIFT HEAVIER STUFF.
BUT THE TRUTH IS... YOU CAN DO THINGS THAT ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HUMANS CAN DO...
RIGHT?
LIKE FLY!
AND YOU HOLD BACK BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID THAT IF PEOPLE FIND OUT, THEY'LL STOP CALLING YOU SUPERMAN. INSTEAD, THEY'LL CALL YOU SUPER...
SUPER SOMETHING ELSE.
TO BE HONEST, I'VE TRIED NOT TO GIVE ANY OF THAT MUCH THOUGHT.
AFTER ALL, MINDING YOURSELF TOO MUCH IS A GOOD WAY TO LOSE YOUR MIND.
BUT YOU GOTTA MIND YOURSELF A LITTLE! DON'T YOU SEE, SUPERMAN?
YOU HOLDING BACK ACTUALLY ENDANGERS PEOPLE!
LIKE EARLIER TONIGHT! THANK GOODNESS MS. LANE, INSPECTOR HENDERSON, AND MR. WHITE WEREN'T HURT, BUT THEY COULD HAVE BEEN!
AND YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED THE KLAN BEFORE THEY EVER KIDNAPPED YOUR FRIENDS, BEFORE THEY EVEN LEFT THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING! BECAUSE YOU COULD'VE FLOWN THERE!
I GUESS... I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
...I WISH IT WERE OKAY FOR YOU TO FLY.
IT'S LATE, ROBERTA.
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.
AW, JEEZ...!
SUPERMAN! WAIT!
I-I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ALL THAT!
WHOOOSH!
ME AND MY BIG, STUPID MOUTH.

HWOOOSH!

HWOOOSH!
SMALLVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH
THIS WEEK!

KENT
CLARK?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WHAT'S WRONG?!

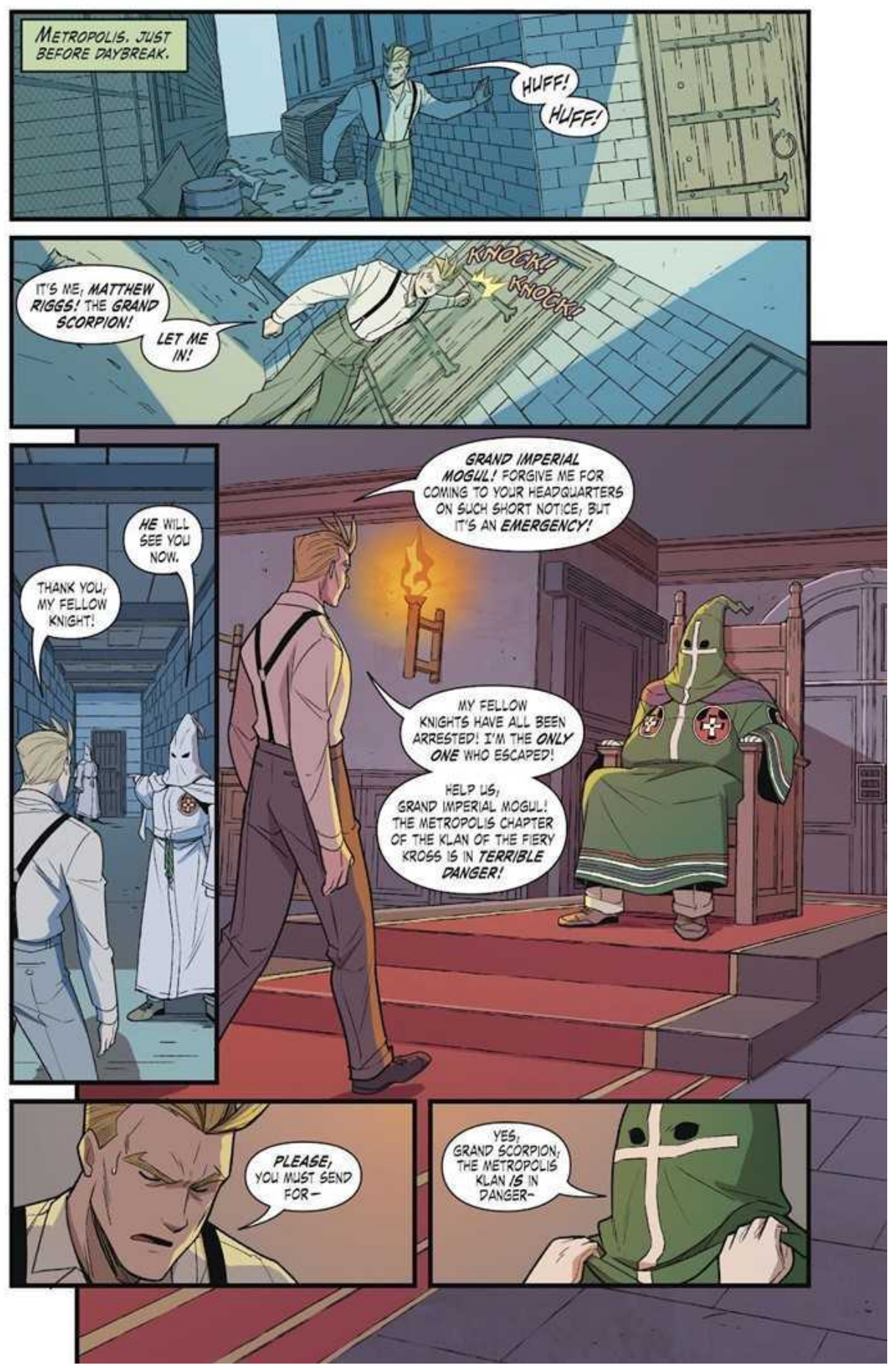
I...I NEED TO KNOW THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, NO MATTER WHAT I MIGHT FIND OUT, NOTHING CHANGES BETWEEN US.
PROMISE ME WE'LL ALWAYS BE A FAMILY.

OH, SON...
WE MADE THAT PROMISE THE MOMENT WE LAID EYES ON YOU.

WHOOOSH!

Lake Solitude
SPLASH!

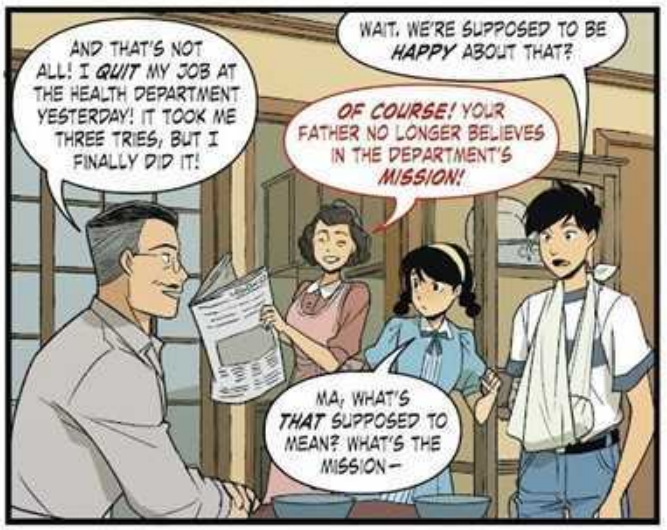
HELLO, SON.


METROPOLIS. JUST BEFORE DAYBREAK.
HUFF!
HUFF!
IT'S ME, MATTHEW RIGGS! THE GRAND SCORPION!
LET ME IN!
KNOCK!
KNOCK!
HE WILL SEE YOU NOW.
THANK YOU, MY FELLOW KNIGHT!
GRAND IMPERIAL MOGUL! FORGIVE ME FOR COMING TO YOUR HEADQUARTERS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, BUT IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
MY FELLOW KNIGHTS HAVE ALL BEEN ARRESTED! I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO ESCAPED!
HELP US, GRAND IMPERIAL MOGUL! THE METROPOLIS CHAPTER OF THE KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS IS IN TERRIBLE DANGER!
PLEASE, YOU MUST SEND FOR—
YES, GRAND SCORPION, THE METROPOLIS KLAN IS IN DANGER—

WHAT POSSESSED YOU TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON THE CITY'S MOST PROMINENT NEWSPAPER?!
-BECAUSE OF YOUR ILL-CONSIDERED ACTIONS!
THOSE SCOUNDRELS AT THE DAILY PLANET THREATENED US FIRST, DR. WILSON! THEY NEEDED A LESSON! IF SUPERMAN HADN'T SPOILED THINGS—
SUPERMAN?! SO IN ADDITION TO THE POLICE, YOU'VE GOT SUPERMAN HUNTING FOR US?!
ALL THIS BAD PUBLICITY, JUST WHEN WE'RE ABOUT TO LAUNCH A NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!
THEY WOULD HAVE PAID US ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH FOR INITIATION FEES! AND ANOTHER 25 DOLLARS FOR ROBES AND HOODS!
YOU'VE COST US THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS, RIGGS!
BUT, SIR, WHAT'S MONEY GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?!
FOOL!
SLAP!

WOW! JOOK? SALTED EGGS? PORK SUNG?
WE HAVEN'T HAD A BREAKFAST LIKE THIS IN AGES!
WE'RE CELEBRATING, CHILDREN!

LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINE!
Daily Planet
KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS ARRESTED


AND THAT'S NOT ALL! I QUIT MY JOB AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY! IT TOOK ME THREE TRIES, BUT I FINALLY DID IT!
WAIT. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY ABOUT THAT?
OF COURSE! YOUR FATHER NO LONGER BELIEVES IN THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION!
MA, WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? WHAT'S THE MISSION—

SO...WE'RE MOVING BACK TO CHINATOWN, THEN?
NO, NO. WE'RE STAYING.
I'LL START MY JOB SEARCH IN EARNEST ON MONDAY.

BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, WE'LL HANDLE IT.
BUT FOR NOW, BREAKFAST!
RINGGG!
SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!

MS. LANE!
GOOD MORNING, ROBERTA!
JIMMY TOLD ME YOU WERE THE ONE WHO FIGURED OUT MY LIPSTICK MESSAGE.
I BROUGHT YOU A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION.
A PEN!
IN THE HANDS OF THE RIGHT PERSON, A PEN CAN BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL INSTRUMENT IN THE WORLD.
IT LOOKS SO EXPENSIVE!
THANK YOU!
IF YOU'RE EVER INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN JOURNALISM, COME BY MY OFFICE.
THE DAILY PLANET COULD ALWAYS USE ANOTHER CUB REPORTER.
I MIGHT TAKE YOU UP ON THAT, MS. LANE. ESPECIALLY IF MY DAD CAN'T FIND A JOB.
DR. LEE LEFT HIS POSITION AT THE METROPOLIS HEALTH DEPARTMENT? INTERESTING. ANY IDEA WHY?
I DON'T KNOW... MY MOM MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION...
HM. SOUNDS LIKE YOUR FIRST LEAD RIGHT THERE, ROBERTA!

FATHER? MOTHER? HOW ARE YOU HERE?
WE ARE NOT. WE BOTH PASSED A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
YOU HAVE BEEN, AND STILL ARE, EXPERIENCING A MEMORY PROJECTION CREATED BY OUR PEOPLE'S TECHNOLOGY.
BUT FEAR NOT. THOUGH WE ARE GONE, WE CAN STILL OFFER HOPE.
THAT IS THE EMBLEM THAT YOU, YOUR MOTHER, AND I ALL WEAR, AFTER ALL.
AN ANCIENT SYMBOL FOR HOPE.
IT IS OUR FAMILY CREST, KAL-EL.
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?
KAL-EL.
YOUR BIRTH NAME. YOU SEE, YOU COME FROM A FARAWAY PLACE—
*—A PLANET CALLED KRYPTON.
"IN SOME WAYS, OUR PEOPLE WERE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE PEOPLE OF EARTH.
"IN OTHER WAYS, WE WERE VERY MUCH THE SAME."

"YOUR MOTHER AND I DISCOVERED TOO LATE THAT OUR PLANET WAS DOOMED.
"WE HASTILY BUILT AN ESCAPE POD TO SAVE YOU, THE LAST HOPE OF OUR PEOPLE.
"BEFORE YOU DEPARTED, WE FOLLOWED AN OLD KRYPTONIAN CUSTOM OF SWADDLING A NEWBORN CHILD WITH A RECORDED BLESSING.
LITTLE ONE, THOUGH WE SEND YOU TO A FOREIGN PEOPLE—
—MAY YOU FIND A HOME WITH THEM.
MAY YOU FIND TRUST AND HOPE AND LOVE.
MAY YOU BE BOUND TOGETHER WITH THEM, DEAR SON.

MAY YOUR TOMORROW AND THEIRS BE ONE.
WHOOOOOOOSH
OUR BLESSING CAME TRUE, KAL-EL.
YOU FOUND A HOME.
YOU TOLD US BEFORE THAT YOU LOVE BEING PART OF THEM.
YOU ARE A PART OF THEM, SON, AND YOU ALWAYS WILL BE.
BUT YOU'LL ALWAYS BE PART OF US, TOO.

MY FIRST LEAD ON A STORY, LOIS LANE SAID.
IT TOOK ME ALL MORNING TO FIND THE BOX OF STUFF THAT DAD HAD BROUGHT HOME FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
HE'D HIDDEN IT IN AN OLD SUITCASE IN THE BASEMENT.
INSIDE ARE WEIRD-LOOKING GADGETS...
A ROUND CASE THAT'S HEAVIER THAN IT LOOKS...
AND MY FATHER'S JOURNAL.
AS I READ, I LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THE METROPOLIS HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
IT WAS FOUNDED BY DR. SEGRET WILSON—

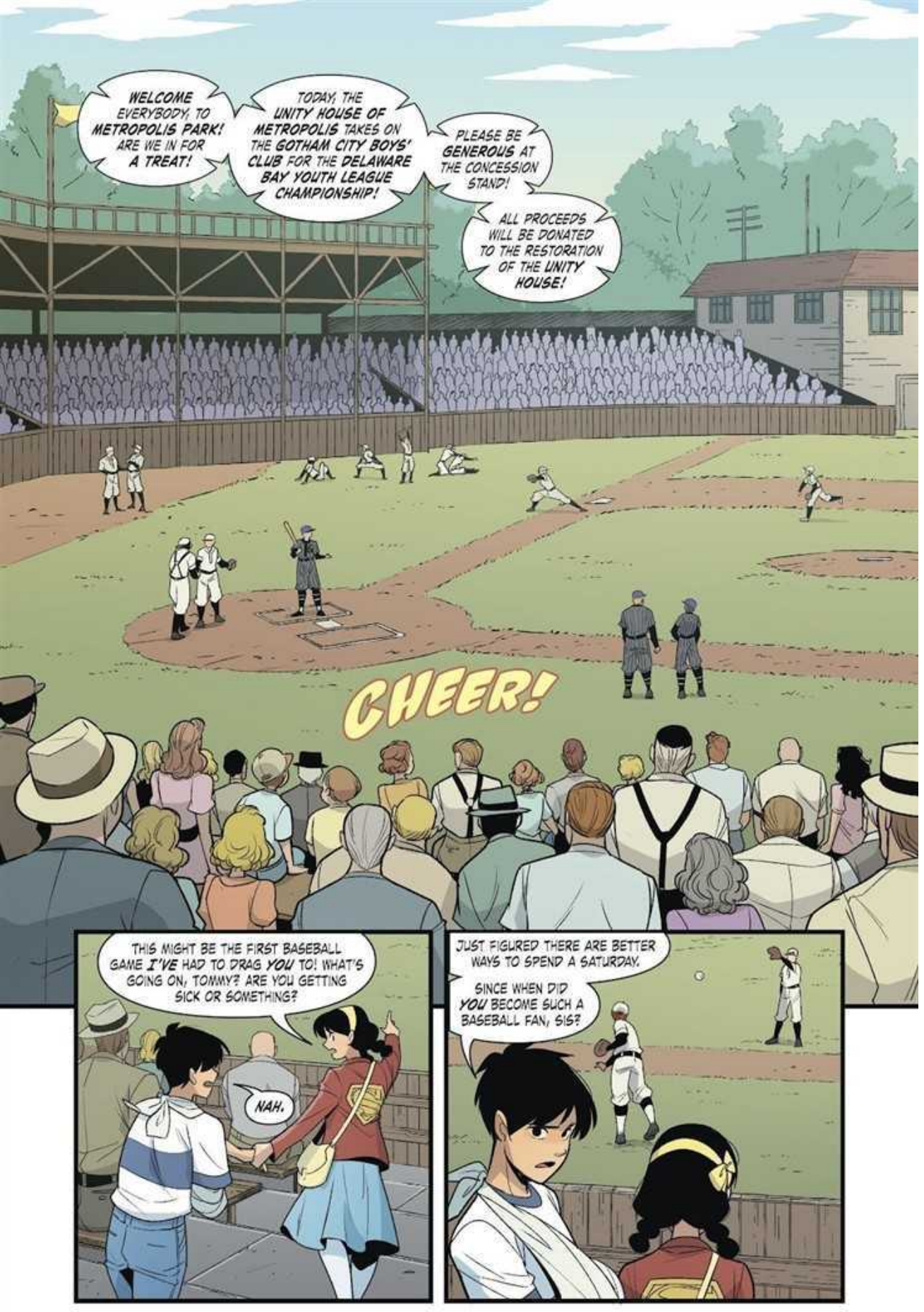
—A MAN WHO ISN'T WHAT HE SEEMS.
TELL ME, RIGGS, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING WITH THE 25 PERCENT CUT YOU GET FROM OUR NEW RECRUITS' INITIATION FEES? THE TEN PERCENT CUT ON THEIR ROBES?
GIVING IT TO CHARITY?
OF COURSE NOT! BUT WE'RE NOT IN THIS FOR THE MONEY! WE ARE PURIFYING AMERICA!
WAIT A MINUTE. IS IT POSSIBLE YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE ALL THAT "ONE RACE, ONE RELIGION, ONE COLOR" ROT?
"ROT"?! IT'S THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH!
TSK TSK. YOU'VE GOTTEN DRUNK ON THE SLOP WE PUT OUT FOR THE LITTLE NOBODIES WHO WANT TO BELIEVE THAT SOME OTHER RACE IS INFERIOR SO THEY CAN FEEL SUPERIOR!
RIGGS, WE ARE A BUSINESS THAT DEALS IN THE WORLD'S OLDEST COMMODITY: HATE!
AND WE DO IT TO FUND A DEFENSE PROGRAM AGAINST AN ACTUAL THREAT!
COME. LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT THE KLAN IS REALLY ABOUT.
IT'S FINE FOR ALL THESE FOREIGNERS TO COME TO AMERICA, SO LONG AS THEY KNOW THEIR ROLE!
TAKE DR. LEE, FOR EXAMPLE... HE PUT ON HIS LAB COAT AND DID AS HE WAS TOLD!
BECAUSE OF FOREIGNERS LIKE HIM, I CAN LIVE AS I DESERVE!
2 for $3
BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN, SOMEONE COMES ALONG WITH THE POWER TO BREAK OUT OF THEIR ROLE. I FOUNDED THE METROPOLIS HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO GUARD AGAINST THE SINGLE GREATEST THREAT TO PEOPLE LIKE ME...
SUPERMAN!

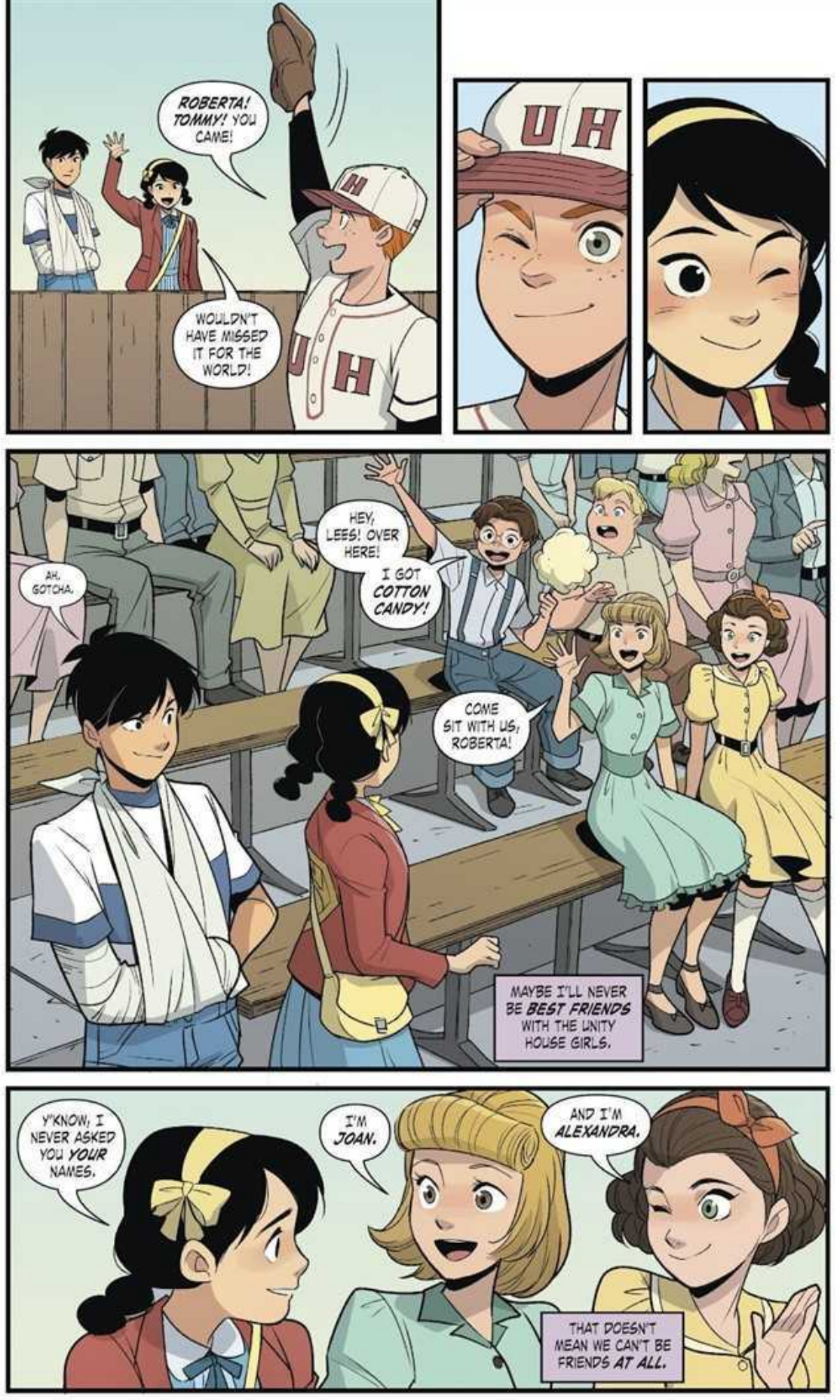
SURE, HE PASSES HIMSELF OFF AS A BOY SCOUT FOR NOW, BUT WHAT IF SOMEDAY HE TRADES HIS CAPE FOR A CROWN?
UNLIKE DR. LEE, WHO CAN ALWAYS BE CONTROLLED BY OUR KLAN MINIONS, SUPERMAN HAS REAL POWER!
I SPENT YEARS RESEARCHING A WAY TO DESTROY HIM, AND NOW I'VE FINALLY GOT IT!
S-SIR, WHO IS THAT MAN IN THE TANK?!
WHY, HE IS THE KEY TO OUR MISSION!
FROM HIS SECRET CONTACTS IN GERMANY, DR. WILSON LEARNED THAT THE NAZIS HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION A RARE SPACE ROCK THAT COULD BE HARNESSED FOR ENERGY.
THEY CALLED THIS ROCK DER GRÜNSTEIN—THE GREEN STONE.
FOR YEARS, DR. WILSON TRIED TO SECURE A PIECE OF DER GRÜNSTEIN.

A NAZI SOLDIER CODE-NAMED THE ATOM MAN HAD MADE HIS WAY TO METROPOLIS.
BAM!
HIS BIG BREAK CAME SHORTLY BEFORE MY FATHER BEGAN WORKING FOR HIM.
THE NAZIS HAD INFUSED THE ATOM MAN'S BLOOD...WITH DER GRÜNSTEIN, GIVING HIM SUPERMAN- LIKE POWERS.
DR. WILSON OBSERVED THE ATOM MAN'S BATTLE WITH SUPERMAN IN SECRET. WHAT HE SAW ASTOUNDED HIM.
THE ATOM MAN DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE, BUT EXPOSURE TO DER GRÜNSTEIN SEEMED TO WEAKEN SUPERMAN!
DR. WILSON ARRANGED FOR THE ATOM MAN TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT...TO THE METROPOLIS HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
HE, MY FATHER, AND JENNINGS USED BACTERIA TO EXTRACT DER GRÜNSTEIN FROM THE ATOM MAN'S BLOOD.
THEN WE PUT THE NAZI'S SPACE ROCK INTO WEAPONRY SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO DESTROY SUPERMAN!

IT'S SO HEAVY!
IT HAS TO BE! THE ONLY ELEMENT THAT CAN CONTAIN DER GRÜNSTEIN'S RADIATION—
—IS LEAD.
THIS CASE IS SO HEAVY BECAUSE IT'S MADE OF LEAD.
!
SO THAT'S WHY DAD LEFT HIS JOB. HE STOPPED BELIEVING IN THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION.
AFTER MEETING SUPERMAN, DAD NO LONGER SAW HIM AS A THREAT.

YOU WANT TO KNOW MY THEORY ABOUT SUPERMAN, RIGGS? HE'S VULNERABLE TO A ROCK FROM OUTER SPACE BECAUSE HE IS FROM OUTER SPACE!
HOW... HOW CAN THAT BE?!
ALL THIS TIME, YOU'VE BEEN AFRAID OF THE WRONG KIND OF ALIEN! HA HA!
I HAVE POWER! AND YOU DO NOT!
OUR SKIN MAY BE THE SAME COLOR, BUT YOU AND I ARE NOTHING ALIKE!
YOU ARE AN INSECT! I AM A GOD!
YOU STUPID, STUPID FOOL! YOU THINK THE WORLD IS DIVIDED BY RACE, BUT REALLY, IT'S DIVIDED BY POWER!
VVVRRR...
DR. WILSON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I CAN'T HAVE A BLOODTHIRSTY FANATIC ENDANGERING MY REVENUE STREAM!
GOODBYE, GRAND SCORPION!
BRAAAK!
YOU TRAITOR!
WHAT?! LET GO!
YOU'RE A MISERABLE TRAITOR TO YOUR OWN KIND, WILSON!
HGK!


WELCOME EVERYBODY, TO METROPOLIS PARK! ARE WE IN FOR A TREAT!
TODAY, THE UNITY HOUSE OF METROPOLIS TAKES ON THE GOTHAM CITY BOYS' CLUB FOR THE DELAWARE BAY YOUTH LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP!
PLEASE BE GENEROUS AT THE CONCESSION STAND!
ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE RESTORATION OF THE UNITY HOUSE!
CHEER!
THIS MIGHT BE THE FIRST BASEBALL GAME I'VE HAD TO DRAG YOU TO! WHAT'S GOING ON, TOMMY? ARE YOU GETTING SICK OR SOMETHING?
NAH.
JUST FIGURED THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO SPEND A SATURDAY.
SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME SUCH A BASEBALL FAN, SIS?


ROBERTA! TOMMY! YOU CAME!
WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED IT FOR THE WORLD!
UH
AH. GOTCHA.
HEY, LEES! OVER HERE!
I GOT COTTON CANDY!
COME SIT WITH US, ROBERTA!
MAYBE I'LL NEVER BE BEST FRIENDS WITH THE UNITY HOUSE GIRLS.
Y'KNOW, I NEVER ASKED YOU YOUR NAMES.
I'M JOAN.
AND I'M ALEXANDRA.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS AT ALL.

GOOD AFTERNOON, DR. LEE, MRS. LEE!
INSPECTOR HENDERSON! I MUST CONFESS, WE NEVER PROPERLY THANKED YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS FOR COMING TO OUR AID ON THAT HORRIBLE NIGHT.
YES, THANK YOU. THANK YOU ALL.
JUST DOING MY JOB.
NO, IT WAS MORE THAN THAT. YOU WERE BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR.
LOIS LANE! I WAS HOPING SHE'D BE HERE!
SAVE MY SEAT? I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
SURE!
I BROUGHT MY DAD'S ITEMS TO SHOW HER.
YOU!

COME HERE!
LET GO OF ME!
LET GO!
RIIIP!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASILY, YOU FILTHY CHING-CHONG!
MMMPH!
THE CROWD GOES QUIET AS UNITY HOUSE STARTING PITCHER CHUCK RIGGS GETS READY TO THROW THE FIRST PITCH OF THE GAME!
BRAAAAK!

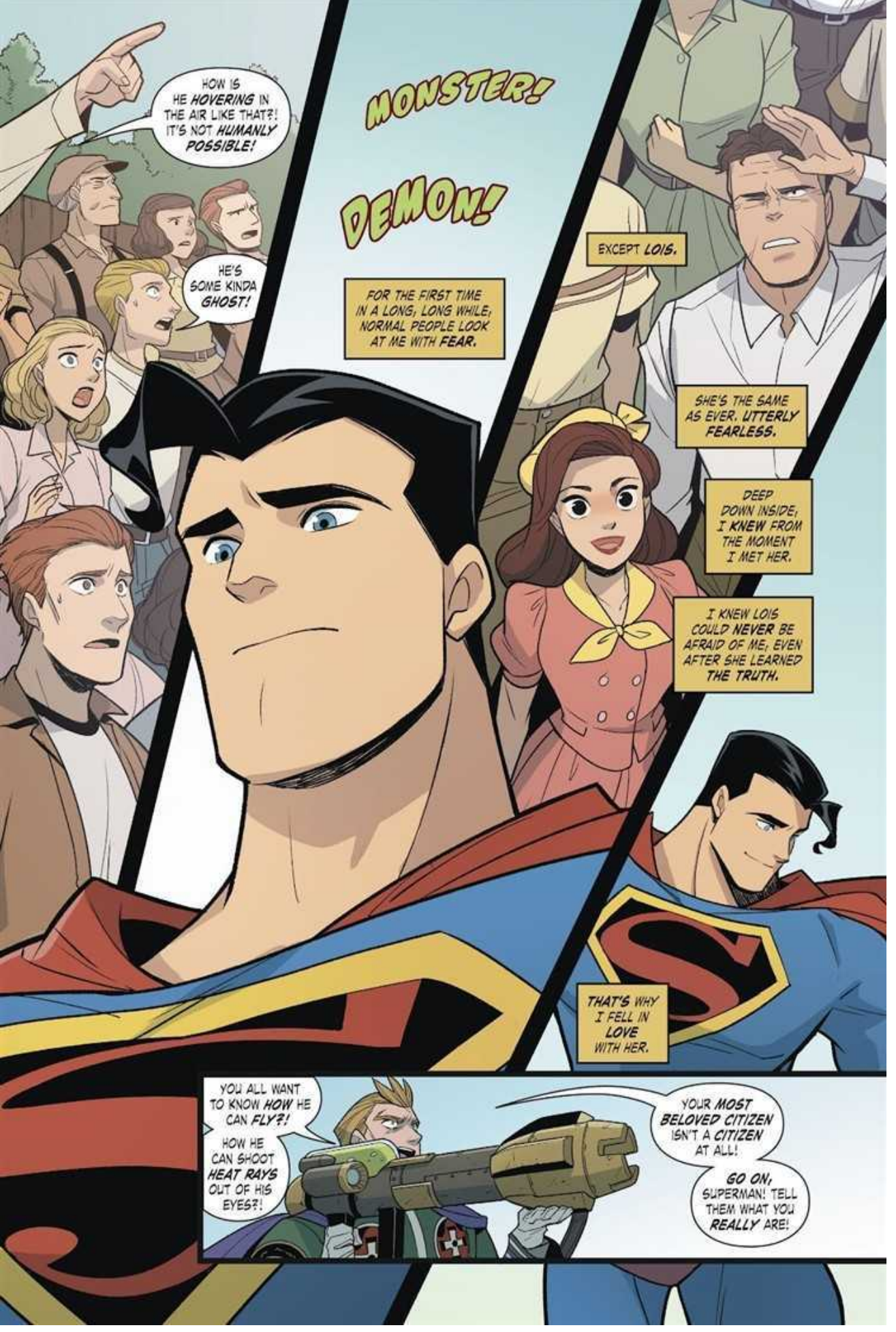
ONE RACE! ONE COLOR! ONE RELIGION!
LET GO OF ME, YOU CREEP!
UNCLE MATT—?!
PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS...
I AM THE GRAND SCORPION OF THE KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS!
BY YOUR VERY PRESENCE HERE, YOU ARE SUPPORTING THE SO-CALLED UNITY HOUSE—THAT BLIGHTED SYMBOL OF METROPOLIS'S FESTERING IMPURITY!
IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?! DO YOU REALLY WANT YOUR CITY—
OUR NATION—TO COME APART AT THE SEAMS?!
HE'S GOT ROBERTA!

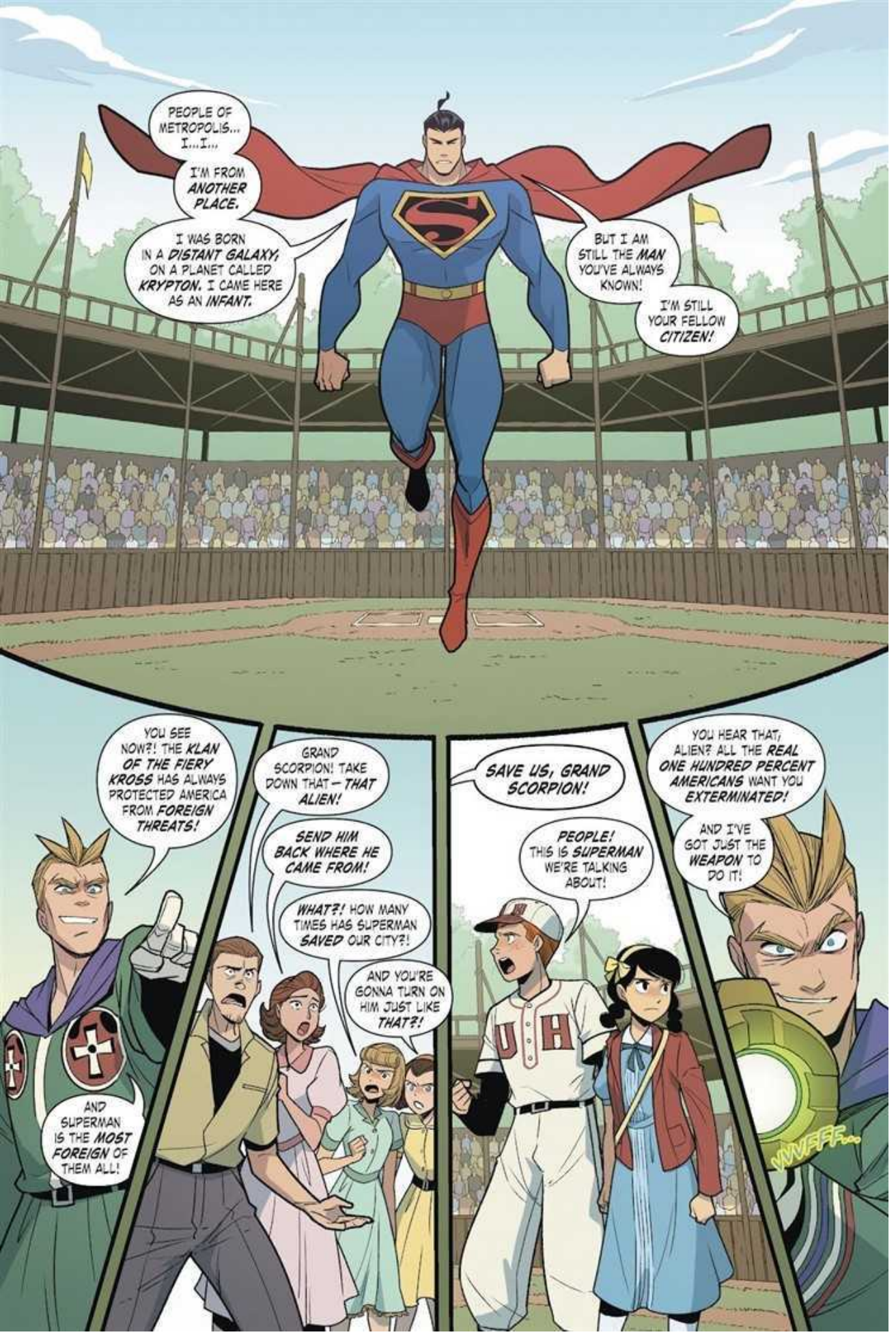
MY DAUGHTER!
DON'T WORRY, DR. LEE, I'LL—
YOU'LL DO NOTHING!
THAT YOU, BOSS? WITHOUT YOUR BADGE YOU ALL LOOK THE SAME! HA HA!
Click
UNCLE MATT?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU'VE LOST CONTROL...!
GO, CHUCK! GET OUTTA HERE!
NEPHEW! MY GOOD AND LOYAL KNIGHT!
I'VE BEEN ALL BUT ABANDONED, BUT YOU WILL STAY BY MY SIDE UNTIL THE VERY END!
HEY, JERK IN THE GREEN BATHROBE! LET GO OF MY SISTER!
YOU?! YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN CARE OF, BOY!
HOW ABOUT I TRY AGAIN?
VVVRRR...
TOSS.
CHUCK!

KRACK!
RGH!
RGH!
WUMP!
SMACK!
RRRGH!
NEPHEW...?! YOU'RE SIDING WITH THEM?! OVER YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD?!
CHUCK HERE IS SIDING WITH WHAT'S RIGHT!
BECAUSE YOU ARE SO OBVIOUSLY WRONG!
NOT JUST WRONG. EVIL.

YOU'LL PAY FOR YOUR BETRAYAL, CHUCK RIGGS!
YOU'LL ALL PAY!
VVVFFF...

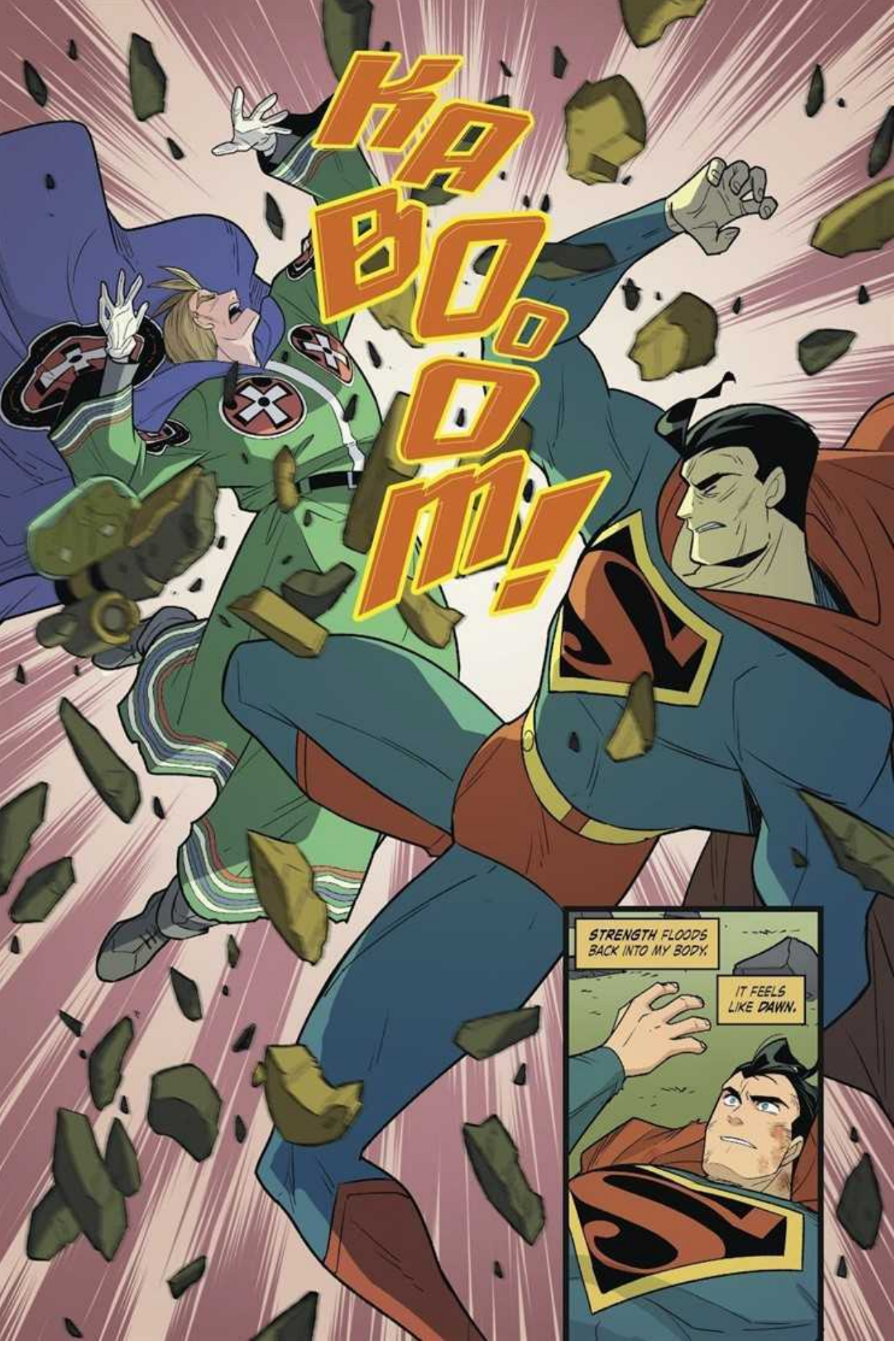
YES!


HOW IS HE HOVERING IN THE AIR LIKE THAT?! IT'S NOT HUMANLY POSSIBLE!
HE'S SOME KINDA GHOST!
MONSTER!
DEMON!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG, LONG WHILE, NORMAL PEOPLE LOOK AT ME WITH FEAR.
EXCEPT LOIS.
SHE'S THE SAME AS EVER. UTTERLY FEARLESS.
DEEP DOWN INSIDE, I KNEW FROM THE MOMENT I MET HER.
I KNEW LOIS COULD NEVER BE AFRAID OF ME, EVEN AFTER SHE LEARNED THE TRUTH.
THAT'S WHY I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER.
YOU ALL WANT TO KNOW HOW HE CAN FLY?!
HOW HE CAN SHOOT HEAT RAYS OUT OF HIS EYES?!
YOUR MOST BELOVED CITIZEN ISN'T A CITIZEN AT ALL!
GO ON, SUPERMAN! TELL THEM WHAT YOU REALLY ARE!


PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS... I...I...
I'M FROM ANOTHER PLACE.
I WAS BORN IN A DISTANT GALAXY, ON A PLANET CALLED KRYPTON. I CAME HERE AS AN INFANT.
BUT I AM STILL THE MAN YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN!
I'M STILL YOUR FELLOW CITIZEN!
YOU SEE NOW?! THE KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS HAS ALWAYS PROTECTED AMERICA FROM FOREIGN THREATS!
AND SUPERMAN IS THE MOST FOREIGN OF THEM ALL!
GRAND SCORPION! TAKE DOWN THAT — THAT ALIEN!
SEND HIM BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM!
WHAT?! HOW MANY TIMES HAS SUPERMAN SAVED OUR CITY?!
AND YOU'RE GONNA TURN ON HIM JUST LIKE THAT?!
SAVE US, GRAND SCORPION!
PEOPLE! THIS IS SUPERMAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!
YOU HEAR THAT, ALIEN? ALL THE REAL ONE HUNDRED PERCENT AMERICANS WANT YOU EXTERMINATED!
AND I'VE GOT JUST THE WEAPON TO DO IT!
WWFFF

DIE, YOU ALIEN SCUM!
FFFWWOOSH!
GRF!
I'M OVERWHELMED BY THE SMELL OF ASH AND ROT AND... A DYING PLANET.
I FIGHT TO STAY CONSCIOUS.
UUUH...!
THAT WEAPON MUST BE POWERED BY DER GRÜNSTEIN! IT'S KILLING SUPERMAN!

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP ITS RADIATION...
IS LEAD.
SUPERMAN! CATCH!
USE IT TO STOP HIS WEAPON!
THWAP!
GRAAA-
WHAT...?!
KLINK!
VVVVWWEEE-!


KA BO. O M!
STRENGTH FLOODS BACK INTO MY BODY.
IT FEELS LIKE DAWN.

GET HIM, SUPERMAN!
YEEEAH!
WHA...?!
WANNA KNOW HOW TO TELL US APART?
SMACK!
I'M THE ONE WITH THE AUTHORITY TO ARREST YOUR SORRY BEHIND!
IT'S OVER, GRAND SCORPION.
SURRENDER.

OH, IT'S OVER, BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK!
METROPOLIS MUST PAY!
WE ALL MUST PAY!
HA HA HA!
TICK TICK TICK TICK
WHOOOOOOOOOSH!
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK

H-HOW DID YOU DO THAT?!
I'M NOT TOTALLY SURE. I'VE BEEN DISCOVERING A LOT ABOUT MYSELF LATELY.
KRK!
YOU REALLY ARE A FOOL, SUPERMAN! YOU HAVE SUCH POWER, EVEN I MUST CONCEDE THAT YOU ARE THE TRUE SUPERIOR RACE!
WHY FIGHT FOR A FAMILY OF CHING-CHONGS?
WHERE I'M FROM, WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN.
YOU'RE CALLING THE LEES "YOUR OWN"?
YES.
HA HA! YOU'VE BEEN BRAINWASHED BY CORRUPT NEWSPAPERS AND TEXTBOOKS, SUPERMAN!
THE LEES AREN'T "YOUR OWN"! YOU SHARE NO BLOOD WITH THEM! NO HISTORY! THERE IS LITERALLY NOTHING THAT BINDS YOU TOGETHER!
THAT HAS BEEN THE KLAN'S POINT ALL ALONG!
A NATION BOUND BY NOTHING CANNOT LAST!

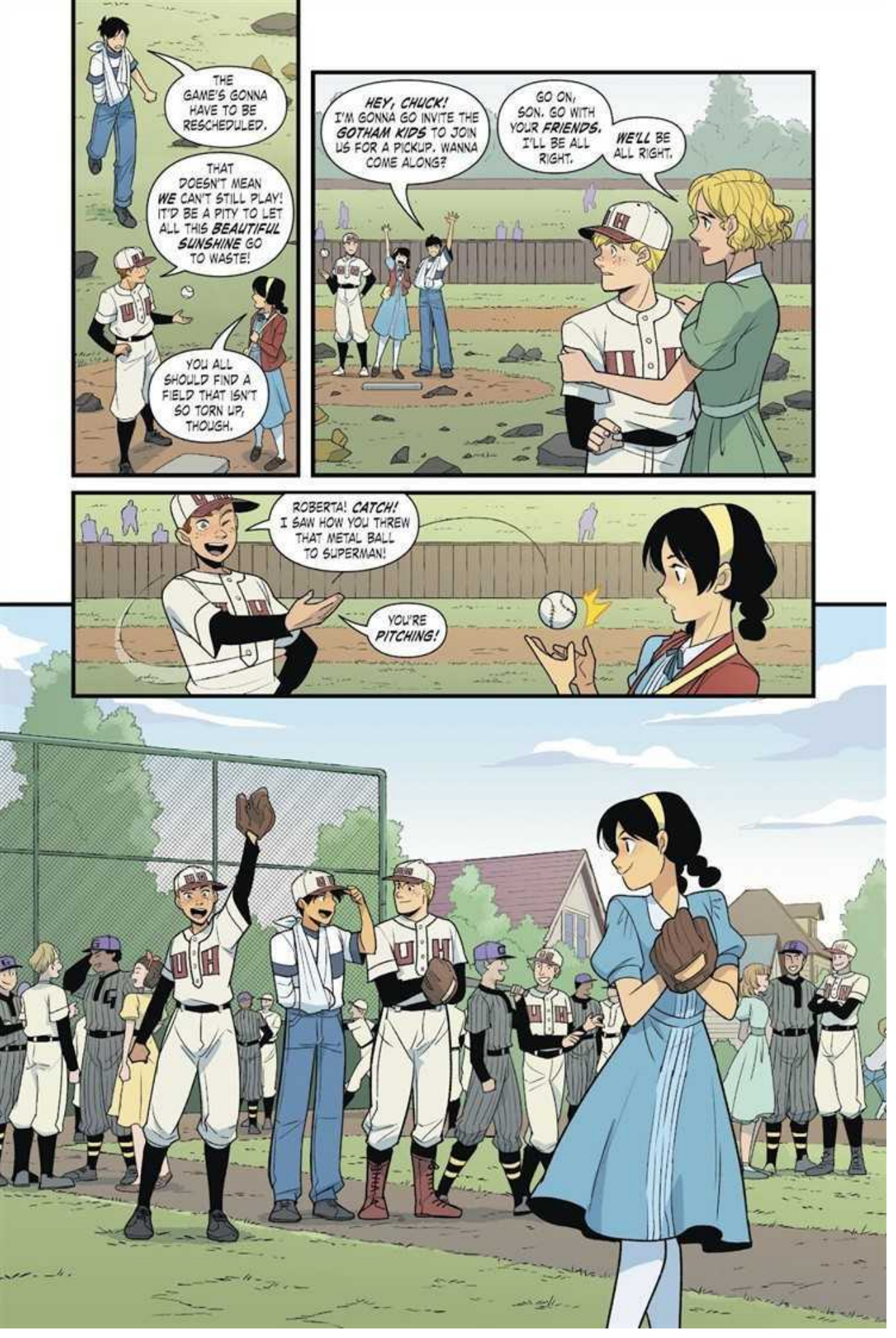
BUT WE ARE BOUND TOGETHER.
THE LEES AND I...OUR FRIENDS AT THE DAILY PLANET AND THE UNITY HOUSE AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT... EVERYONE DOWN THERE, REALLY...
WE ARE BOUND TOGETHER BY THE FUTURE.
WE ALL SHARE THE SAME TOMORROW.
THAT INCLUDES EVEN YOU, ONCE YOU'VE RENOUNCED YOUR HATE AND PAID FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
I'D RATHER HAVE NO TOMORROW AT ALL!
HRK!
SLASH!
HAHA HA HA!
SUPERMAN!
HNNN...

!
SHHH!
THERE'S ALWAYS A TOMORROW.

LATER.
MS. LANE.
SUPERMAN.
I'VE GOT MY USUAL QUESTIONS. YOU FINALLY READY TO GIVE ME ANSWERS?

I AM. SOME OF THEM, ANYWAY.
ARE YOU A COFFEE DRINKER?

SUPERMAN CAN FLY! I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER GET USED TO SEEING THAT!
YOU SAID IT.


THE GAME'S GONNA HAVE TO BE RESCHEDULED.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T STILL PLAY! IT'D BE A PITY TO LET ALL THIS BEAUTIFUL SUNSHINE GO TO WASTE!
YOU ALL SHOULD FIND A FIELD THAT ISN'T SO TORN UP, THOUGH.
HEY, CHUCK! I'M GONNA GO INVITE THE GOTHAM KIDS TO JOIN US FOR A PICKUP. WANNA COME ALONG?
GO ON, SON. GO WITH YOUR FRIENDS. I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
ROBERTA! CATCH! I SAW HOW YOU THREW THAT METAL BALL TO SUPERMAN!
YOU'RE PITCHING!

Daily Planet
DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN: IMMIGRANT FROM KRYPTON, CITIZEN OF METROPOLIS
His "S" Is an Ancient Symbol for Hope
HI, MR. KENT!
ROBERTA LEE! NICE TO SEE YOU!
HOW'S THE REST OF THE FAMILY?
GOOD. DAD GOT A NEW JOB OFFER. MOM ENROLLED IN SOME CLASSES AT METROPOLIS UNIVERSITY.
TOMMY'S HELPING THE UNITY HOUSE TEAM PREPARE FOR THE RESCHEDULED CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.
"RESCHEDULED"...? OH, THAT'S RIGHT! BECAUSE ALL HECK BROKE LOOSE AT THAT FIRST GAME!
UNTIL SUPERMAN SHOWED UP. YOU MISSED ONE OF THE BIGGEST STORIES OF THE YEAR, MR. KENT!
SIGH. I SEEM TO DO THAT A LOT.
YOU HERE FOR JIMMY?
MS. LANE, ACTUALLY.
SHE'S IN HER OFFICE. HUMMING TO HERSELF...
...IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT.
I'VE NEVER, EVER SEEN HER IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD.

HMMM...
MS. LANE? I DON'T MEAN TO BOTHER YOU...
ROBERTA! WHAT A LOVELY SURPRISE!
I CAME TO GIVE THIS PEN BACK TO YOU. IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE. I CAN'T ACCEPT IT.
NONSENSE!
YOU'RE GOING TO NEED IT FOR YOUR NEW JOB.
I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT THAT CUB REPORTER POSITION.
REALLY...?!
BUT STILL...IT HAS YOUR INITIALS ON IT. YOU SHOULD HAVE IT.
YOU KNOW I ALWAYS DO MY HOMEWORK, DON'T YOU?
WHEN I WROTE THAT ARTICLE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FAMILY, I RESEARCHED YOUR FATHER, YOUR MOTHER, YOUR BROTHER—
L.L.
—AND YOU, LAN-SHIN LEE.

MY NAME IS LAN-SHIN LEE.
I'M A CUB REPORTER FOR THE DAILY PLANET.
I'VE WORKED HARD TO MAKE METROPOLIS— THE CITY OF TOMORROW— MY HOME.
JUST LIKE SUPERMAN.
THE END.

SUPERMAN AND ME, PART 3

By Gene Luen Yang

Not everyone looked forward to the possibility of a double victory. On the evening of May 9, 1946, a doctor named Samuel Green led a group of men up Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, Georgia. Green was a grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan.

As grand dragon, Green had watched the second Klan collapse before the war. Many Klansmen left once they realized the entire operation was just a moneymaking scheme. Others left after their leaders' criminal behavior came to light. One Klan leader had been convicted of murdering his secretary. Another was in prison for murdering a rival. Still others were arrested for bribery and theft.

Samuel Green longed for a Klan revival. That night on Stone Mountain, he and his followers built a tall wooden cross and set it on fire. They announced a brand-new era of hate.

As Green had hoped, newspapers all over the nation covered the ceremony. *Life* magazine even published a three-page photo spread. Although the text called the Klansmen bigots, the gorgeously shot photos showed well-dressed, clean-cut men gathered around a fiery cross that shone brightly against a dark sky.

The Ku Klux Klan was about to get back on its feet.

The Klan's original revival had been inspired by a movie about men in white robes.

Its next revival would be stifled by a radio show about a man in a red cape.

Figure 1. Ad for the debut of Superman radio show

No one is sure who first came up with the idea. Stetson Kennedy, an intrepid anti-Klan reporter, said he had brought the idea to the radio show's staff. Kenyon and Eckhardt, an advertising agency that worked with the show, said the idea was actually theirs.

Bob Maxwell, the head of Superman Inc., claimed he had to convince Kenyon and Eckhardt to get on board. He certainly had reason for wanting his company's premier superhero to take on the Klan. As a Jewish American, Maxwell recoiled in horror when he read about what white supremacists had done to Jewish people in Europe. He felt a duty to fight bigotry however he could.

To avoid getting sued by an organization that was legally recognized by several states, the show's writers created a stand-in organization called the Clan of the Fiery Cross. There was no mistaking their intention, though. The fictional villains had the same costumes, rituals, and beliefs as the real-life Ku Klux Klan.

Maxwell read through 25 different scripts before landing on the right one. There were plenty of risks, so he wanted to be careful. What if the story was too preachy? Or too scary? Superman might alienate his young fans.

Even worse, what if a listener only tuned in to a part of an episode and left with the impression that Superman actually condoned bigotry? The script had to get things just right.

On June 10, 1946, the first episode of the 16-part "The Clan of the Fiery Cross" story line aired. For the next several weeks, listeners all across America huddled around their radios to listen as young Tommy Lee, his father, Dr. Lee, and his unnamed mother and sister moved into Metropolis and ran afoul of a group of violent bigots. They cheered when Superman leaped to the family's defense.

The story line had its detractors. Klan supporters in Atlanta called for a boycott of the show's sponsors. Bob Maxwell even received death threats from the New Jersey Klan.

Most people, though, loved it. *The Adventures of Superman* received awards from the United Parents Association and the Boys Clubs of America. *Newsweek* magazine called it "the first children's program to develop a social consciousness." Listenership soared.

Some believe that Superman's radio defeat of the Clan of the Fiery Cross led to the real-life Klan's public image downfall. After being portrayed as bumbling, hateful rubes on a children's show, the Ku Klux Klan would never again command the same level of respect it had once enjoyed.

Figure 2. Captain Marvel and Captain Mar-V flying, March 1941. Used with permission.

Figure 3. The photo of Dalton Trumbo in the July 14 Marvel Mystery was taken in 1943. Its father was typically the kid-like Klan fantasy part he was drafted. Used with permission.

After World War II, many Chinese American veterans did what the Lee family did in "The Clan of the Fiery Cross." With help from the G.I. Bill, they moved out of the nation's Chinatowns and into the suburbs.

They were often met with hostility. Once they got to their new neighborhoods, some were threatened. Others had garbage thrown on their lawns. Some chose to move in the middle of the night to avoid trouble.

Even so, in part because of the public image shift that had happened after Pearl Harbor, Chinese Americans were able to make the move.

Not all nonwhite Americans were as lucky. Black veterans had a much harder time accessing the G.I. Bill's benefits, despite the bill not having any language about race. In the South, where most African Americans lived, the federal government handed over the bill's administration to racist local officials. Many black veterans were denied the home loans they had rightfully earned, so they were unable to make the same move the Chinese Americans had made.

Japanese Americans also faced hardships. Even after they were released from the internment camps, most could not recover the homes and businesses that had been taken from them. Their own government had erased their prewar lives.

"The Clan of the Fiery Cross is made up of intolerant bigots," Clark Kent tells Jimmy Olsen in the "Clan" story line's third episode. "They don't judge a man in the decent American way by his own qualities, they judge him by what church he goes to, and by the color of his skin."

"Intolerance is a filthy weed," he continues. "The only way to get rid of it is by hunting out the roots and pulling them out of the ground!"

Superman was leading us to a bright new tomorrow. Unfortunately, postwar America didn't follow him all the way. We left the double victory incomplete.

My mother was born in China in 1945, a year before the end of World War II. During the first years of her life, her family moved from one city to the next, trying their best to escape violence and starvation. They eventually made it to Hong Kong and then Taiwan.

After graduating from a Taiwanese college, my mother came to the United States. She met my father, who had also come from Taiwan. The two of them went on to earn master's degrees despite not having completely mastered English. They courageously faced down racism and other indignities and went on to build a life for themselves and their family.

My parents were able to achieve all that they have not only because they worked hard (and believe me, they worked hard), but also because they immigrated over two decades after the Lees first moved to Metropolis, to an America that had not given up the struggle for a true double victory.

We are still in the midst of that struggle.

Figure 1. My mother, around the time she came to America. Used with permission.

After my father arrived in America and before he met my mom, he was terribly lonely. He lived in a boarding house with other students. One of them was named Dave. Dave had dark brown hair and Clark Kent glasses, and he'd grown up in a town that was driving distance from campus.

Dave must have sensed that my father needed a friend. Despite the language barrier, Dave began talking with my father. First one conversation, then another. On holidays when the house cleared out, Dave invited my father to go with him to his parents' home. Dave's parents and siblings welcomed my father with open arms, and they shared many meals together.

"I felt a lot less lonesome during the holidays," my father says. "I'm grateful for that warm friendship."

Fifty years have passed. My father and Dave each found wives, raised families, started and then ended careers. They are friends to this day.

When I think about what the future ought to be like, I don't think about my junior high classmate with the untied shoes. I think about the friendship between my dad and Dave.

Figure 2. My father and his friend Dave when they were college students. Used with permission.

Figure 3. The Strongest Man Alive.

Superman is one of our nation's—and the world's—most enduring icons. He seems to have always been there, and he's not going away anytime soon. Ever since defending a Chinese American family in 1946, he's stood for tolerance, justice, and hope.

Even today, the immigrant from Krypton challenges us to follow his example more fully and more perfectly.

We have to meet his challenge.

After all, though our yesterdays may be different, we all share the same tomorrow.

Gene Luen Yang
August 2019

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Superman: The Unauthorized Biography by Glen Weldon (Wiley, 2013)

The *Daily Planet* is under attack! The Klan invades the newspaper's headquarters, kidnapping Lois Lane, Perry White, and Inspector Henderson. Even Superman doesn't know where they've been taken, but Lois Lane has left a clue—and teenager Roberta Lee is sharp enough to spot it.

Superman runs across town to save his friends, but finds the Klan still has one more surprise waiting for him! The only way to put an end to the Klan's menace and save Metropolis is for Superman to unleash his full potential, facing a dark secret he has long hidden—even from himself.

Inspired by the 1940s Superman radio serial "Clan of the Fiery Cross," *New York Times* bestselling author Gene Luen Yang (*American Born Chinese, Boxers* and *Saints, The Terrifics, New Super-Man*) concludes his personal retelling of the adventures of the Lee family as they team up with Superman to smash the Klan.

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